



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Greece

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Semi-Annual

2003

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Report Highlights:

Heavy rains have reduced apple production by 15 percent and table grape production by 22 percent in 2002. Pears were relatively unaffected by this weather, but reductions in production and exports continue as farmers cut back acreage and maintain fewer bearing trees in Greece.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Rome [IT1], GR

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Situation and Outlook

Heavy storms, which prevailed from July to September, have reduced apple production by approximately 15% compared to the 2001 level. This figure is still a preliminary forecast based on Greek Exporters, as the Greek Ministry of Agriculture has not yet announced official fresh apple production data.

Heavy rainstorms also have adversely affected table grapes and a reduction in production is estimated at 22% compared to the 2001 crop. The areas most affected by adverse weather were Crete, Korinthia, and Kavala. Poor weather conditions have badly affected the quality of table grapes and consequently a considerable drop in exports compared to MY 2001/02 is forecast.

According to estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture, 84,000 MT of table grapes were hit by heavy rainstorms. This amount does not appear in the PSD. Part of this amount was not actually destroyed, but was taken to processing plants by a number of farmers. It is roughly estimated that this was approximately 25,000 MT. This quantity explains the figure cited in the attached PSD under the processing line.

According to exporters, 56,892 MT of table grapes were sold to EU countries and approximately 14,753 MT to third countries. In 2001 the corresponding figures were 86,256 MT for EU countries and 25,283 MT for third countries.

The most popular table grapes varieties in Greece and their production in 2002 compared to the 2001 crop is as follows:

Variety	Total production in 2001(MT)	Total Production in 2002(MT)
Soultanina	175,970	135,363
Victoria	65,000	54,220
Rozaki	46,550	38,792
Moschato	9,670	7,930
Sideritis	4,500	3,800

No remarkable changes have been cited in pear production other than those described in the GR 2016 annual report. Farmers are not satisfied with prices received and the pear crop shows a drastic reduction in acreage.

Due to increased domestic production of cocktails and fruit salads and the fact that good quality domestic pears supply is limited, a significant amount of imported pears are utilized by the processing industry.

As cited in our GR2021 spreads between producer prices and wholesale/retail levels in Athens caused

consumers to protest against the high prices of fruit and vegetables. According to cooperatives, there is a difficulty in certifying packaging of fresh products. In Greece there are a number of packing facilities but they do not appear to effectively compete with EU countries. Grading and sorting prior to packing are not consistent. Also, place of origin and pricing have become difficult issues. The Hellenic Fruit Exporters association and the farming cooperatives recently have started discussions in an attempt to reach an agreement concerning quality certification and place of origin of fresh products destined for local and international markets. The purpose of the agreement is to determine pricing objectively so that consumers as well as farmers and traders may benefit.

Recently, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Agriculture, national criteria for the recognition of farmers' groups in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector are being reviewed. Contemplated changes are for a reduction of the minimum number of members required to form a group and the minimum trade volume required for the constitution of such groups. The easier recognition of farmers' groups will contribute to a better procedure in trading and certifying fresh fruits and vegetables.

Exchange Rate, Jan - Nov 2002: \$1 = 1.068 euro

PS&D Table, Fresh Apples

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Apples				(HA)(1000 TREES)(MT)	
	Revised	2000	Preliminary	2001	Forecast	2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/2000		07/2001		07/2002
Area Planted	15600	15600	15700	15800	15800	15800
Area Harvested	15200	15200	15400	15500	15500	15500
Bearing Trees	5900	5900	6000	6030	6030	6030
Non-Bearing Trees	150	150	120	110	110	110
Total Trees	6050	6050	6120	6140	6140	6140
Commercial Production	304000	304000	251000	251000	223000	211000
Non-Comm. Production	11000	11000	9000	9000	7000	9000
TOTAL Production	315000	315000	260000	260000	230000	220000
TOTAL Imports	14000	14000	18000	18000	14000	15000
TOTAL SUPPLY	329000	329000	278000	278000	244000	235000
Domestic Fresh Consump	249300	249300	237000	237000	208000	200000
Exports, Fresh Only	28500	28500	20000	20000	17000	16000
For Processing	5500	5500	1000	1000	1000	1000
Withdrawal From Market	45700	45700	20000	20000	18000	18000
TOTAL UTILIZATION	329000	329000	278000	278000	244000	235000

PS&D Table, Fresh Pears

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Pears				(HA)(1000 TREES)(MT)	
	Revised	2000	Preliminary	2001	Forecast	2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/2000		07/2001		07/2002
Area Planted	10800	10800	10600	10600	10500	10500
Area Harvested	10800	10800	10600	10600	10500	10500
Bearing Trees	4000	4000	3950	3950	3930	3930
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees	4000	4000	3950	3950	3930	3930
Commercial Production	58200	58200	53300	53300	23700	23800
Non-Comm. Production	1800	1800	1700	1700	800	1200
TOTAL Production	60000	60000	55000	55000	24500	25000
TOTAL Imports	14000	14000	15000	15000	28000	29000
TOTAL SUPPLY	74000	74000	70000	70000	52500	54000
Domestic Fresh Consump	64750	64750	60800	60800	44685	44500
Exports, Fresh Only	1000	1000	1000	1000	600	650
For Processing	8000	8000	8000	8000	7000	8500
Withdrawal From Market	250	250	200	200	215	350
TOTAL UTILIZATION	74000	74000	70000	70000	52500	54000

PS&D Table, Fresh Table Grapes

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Table Grapes				(HA)(MT)	
	Revised	2000	Preliminary	2001	Forecast	2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2001		01/2002		01/2003
Area Planted	19000	19000	19000	19000	19500	19000
Area Harvested	19000	19000	19000	19000	19500	19000
Commercial Production	293412	293412	273000	300000	278000	261200
Non-Comm. Production	35000	35000	37000	40000	36000	4500
TOTAL Production	328412	328412	310000	340000	314000	265700
TOTAL Imports	1500	1500	7957	1500	3000	1500
TOTAL SUPPLY	329912	329912	317957	341500	317000	267200
Domestic Fresh Consump	167912	167912	162957	183800	152000	125200
Exports, Fresh Only	117000	117000	115000	117700	115000	77000
For Processing	45000	45000	40000	40000	50000	65000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UTILIZATION	329912	329912	317957	341500	317000	267200